

MUPPETS



THE MUPPET SHOW

c. 1975-1981

The Muppet Show was a TV variety show created by Jim Henson with the hopes of expanding the Muppets' reach to include a diverse range of age groups. *The Muppet Show* aimed to engage older viewers with famous guest stars and tasteful amounts of blue humor. The show introduced a large cast of furry characters that would go on to be the stars of theatrically released Muppet movies. Each episode featured a combination of skits presented onstage and a window into the commotion happening backstage, rife with interpersonal conflict.

SESAME STREET

c. 1969-

Sesame Street is an educational television program that makes learning fun for preschoolers all over the world. It was the first widespread showcase for Jim Henson's Muppets, a puppet act that he had been workshoping since the 1950s. A cast of zany puppet characters teach children letter recognition, basic arithmetic, and interpersonal skills, with an interspersal of plot and humor that appeal to parents and older children as well.

FRAGGLE ROCK

c. 1983-1987

Fraggle Rock is a children's television program created by Jim Henson with the aim of exploring metaphysical aspects of life and humanity. The creatures in Fraggle Rock, known as "Fraggles," struggle with issues of prejudice, spirituality, identity, social conflict, and the inevitability of death. The colorful cast of Fraggles learn and grow from the challenges they face, and they find joy in each others' company and peace in being themselves as they live their tumultuous lives in the caves of their underground society.



C. 1975



ANIMAL

STORY

Animal works as the untamed drummer for **the Electric Mayhem**, *the Muppet Show's* rock-band-in-residency. His debut occurred in the second of two *Muppet Show* pilots: "The Muppet Show: Sex and Violence." Animal requires frequent exercise to let off steam and originally was chained up in the basement when not performing with the Electric Mayhem. He eventually became one of the most popular Muppet Show muppets, with appearances in every Muppet movie to date.

CHARACTERISTICS

Animal is a bright red muppet with an angry eyebrow, a row of disorganized bottom teeth, and a chain around his neck. His original performer Frank Oz once said that he had Animal's personality boiled down to five words: **Sex, sleep, food, drums, and pain**. Animal tends to speak simple phrases repetitively in a guttural shout, often related to his interests (e. g. "BEAT DRUMS" or "WO-MAN!!!").

ANIMAL

c. 1975

DESIGNER:

Jim Henson (*designer*)
Dave Goelz (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Frank Oz (1975-2000)
Eric Jacobson (2002-)

FUN FACT:

Animal has been known to try and eat his drum kit, and also glass.



C. 1983

BOOBER



STORY

Boober is one of the five main Fraggles in *Fraggle Rock*. Unlike most Fraggles in *Fraggle Rock*, he despises fun and games— though he has an evil alter ego named Sidebot-tom who plays tricks and laughs at jokes, which Boober prides himself at being unable to do. He is *Fraggle Rock*'s biggest hypochondriac and harbinger of bad news.

Boober lives alone in a hole and he's been known to have a lucky charm for just about any occasion, just in case.

BOOBER FRAGGLE

c. 1983

B

CHARACTERISTICS

Boober Fraggles has bluish green skin and a mop of red hair at the end of his tail and on top of his head, pressed down by a brown cap obscuring his eyes. He spends most of his time worrying about **doom and disease**. Boober is superstitious and suffers from many phobias, but he enjoys the simpler things in life such as doing laundry, cooking, and spending time with his friends.

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Leslee Asch (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Dave Goelz

FUN FACT:

"According to Boober Fraggles, there are only two things certain in this world: death and laundry." -henson.com



C. 1978

CAMILLA

THE

CHICKEN



STORY

Originally one of many chickens, Camilla distinguished herself from the flock as she became **Gonzo the Great's number one main squeeze**. She only speaks chicken, leaving Gonzo to interpret her squawks for the audience. Camilla has appeared in multiple Muppet big-screen productions, from *The Muppet Movie* to *The Muppets Most Wanted*, and her relationship with Gonzo is still going strong after 40 long years together— though she's still impatiently waiting for him to put a **ring** on her **wing**!

CAMILLA THE CHICKEN

c. 1978

CHARACTERISTICS

Camilla the Chicken is a chicken. She has white feathers and an orange beak and a red wattle. She also has luscious eyelashes, so it is obvious that she is a **girl chicken**. Camilla is a very talented and dedicated singer, dancer, and performer. Though she is a diva in her own right, she exists in the Muppets canon mainly as a **foil to Gonzo**.

DESIGNER:

Jim Henson (*designer*)

PERFORMER:

Jerry Nelson (*1978-2003*)

Matt Vogel (*2008-*)

FUN FACT:

Camilla is Gonzo's long term girlfriend, assuming he can tell her apart from the other chickens, which he canonically cannot.



C. 1976

DR.

BUNSEN

HONEYDEW



STORY

Dr. Bunsen Honeydew is *The Muppet Show*'s resident madcap scientist, working in his lab alongside his assistant Beaker. He has appeared in every Muppets movie, with a role that often bears large influence on the movie's plot. Muppet Labs, founded and run by Honeydew, is responsible for a multitude of scientific discoveries and inventions from Insta-Grow Pills to the Automatic Wastebasket. Honeydew reportedly earned his doctorate at Carnegie Mellonhead University.

DR. BUNSEN HONEYDEW

c. 1976

CHARACTERISTICS

Dr. Bunsen Honeydew is a honeydew-colored lab coat wearing muppet with a round, bald head and glasses in lieu of eyes. At his core he is a man of science and he is easily excitable when it comes to his various experiments, inventions, and theories. He has fully articulated hands that he uses to their full scientific potential in his lab.

DESIGNER:

Jim Henson (*designer*)
Dave Goelz (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Dave Goelz (1976–)

FUN FACT:

Dr. Honeydew and his assistant Beaker have a long and storied "bromance" that has led to speculation on the part of some eagle-eyed viewers.



C. 1980



ELMO

STORY

Elmo lives in an apartment on Sesame Street with his **real** pet goldfish, Dorothy, next door to his neighbor Mr. Noodle.

Elmo is a very popular character on Sesame Street, with his very own segment titled “Elmo’s World.”

Elmo’s original performer, Kevin Clash, said his goal for Elmo’s character was to make Elmo embody **love**.

CHARACTERISTICS

Elmo is a furry fire-engine red muppet with an orange nose and round, impressionable eyes. Though his fur is red, his skin is orange, and that is why his nose is orange. If we take him at his word, Elmo is reportedly three-and-a-half years old. He almost always **refers to himself in the third person**. He is generally enthusiastic, friendly, and cheerful.

ELMO

c. 1980

E

DESIGNER:

Carolyn Wilcox (*designer*)
Leslee Asch (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Kevin Clash (*1984–2013*)
Ryan Dillon (*2013–*)

FUN FACT:

In an epic display of heroism and bravery, Elmo banned the infamous late night host and general scourge on humanity Jimmy Fallon from Sesame Street.



C. 1976

**FOZZIE
BEAR**



STORY

Fozzie Bear is *The Muppet Show*'s resident **stand-up comedian**, oft punctuating his bad jokes with his trademark laugh: "Wocka wocka!" Fozzie's greatest goal is to find success in show biz, yearning to make it big with his slapstick act. He is best friends with Kermit the Frog and Rowlf the Dog.

He has had **main roles** in all the major Muppet Movies, and he is often heckled onstage by the perpetually negative duo Statler and Waldorf.

CHARACTERISTICS

Fozzie Bear is a honey-brown bear muppet with a dapper brown fedora and a white and pink polka-dot scarf tied in a bow around his neck. His eyebrows are perpetually raised, giving him an open and genuine expression.

Fozzie is a comedian and he **loves to tell jokes**, though he isn't the funniest bear out there.

FOZZIE BEAR

c. 1976

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Bonnie Erickson (*Builder*)

PERFORMER:

Frank Oz (1976-2000)
Eric Jacobson (2002-)

FUN FACT:

On one occasion, Kermit entrusted Fozzie to host the Muppet Show while he was home sick. This decision ended in disaster.



C. 1976



GONZO

STORY

Gonzo was originally introduced as a **bizarre avante-garde stuntman**, performing violence-based acts of daring that typically ended with the audience booing him off the stage. Despite this, he still has a **zany, bombastic appreciation for life**. In his first television appearance, he ate a tire to the tune of "Flight of the Bumblebee." Gonzo is best friends and roommates with **Rizzo the Rat**. When it comes to dating he's somewhat of a chicken-chaser, but his heart belongs to Camilla.

CHARACTERISTICS

Gonzo (also known as Gonzo the Great and the Great Gonzo) is a **whatever**. He is an unclassifiable muppet creature with a long, tubular beak, blue fur, heavy yellow eyelids, and a look of despair deep in his eyes. **He takes pride in his uniqueness** and his job as the Muppet Show's resident daredevil performance artiste.

GONZO

c. 1976

DESIGNER:

Jim Henson (*designer*)
Dave Goelz (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Dave Goelz (1976-)

FUN FACT:

Gonzo plays the central role in the 1999 movie *Muppets from Space*, which details his mental breakdown while stressing the importance of found family.





C. 1983

HENCHY

FRAGGLE

STORY

Henchy Fraggles is the World's Oldest Fraggles's henchman in *Fraggle Rock*. He typically repeats everything the World's Oldest Fraggles says, even before he says it, which results in a reprimand in the form of a **bonk** on the head. His largest role appears in an episode in the last season called "Inspector Red," where he steals the Fraggles horn so there won't be any more Fraggles council meetings (and thus no more opportunities for the World's Oldest Fraggles to bonk him).

HENCHY FRAGGLE

c. 1983

CHARACTERISTICS

Henchy Fraggles is a green Fraggles with blue hair and wide eyes. He typically dresses in eclectic rags in true Fraggles fashion.

Henchy does not like being bonked on the head, though he often is when the World's Oldest Fraggles reprimands him. The World's Oldest Fraggles reprimands him often.

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

John Pattison

FUN FACT:

Henchy Fraggles, originally a male Fraggles, was reimagined as a female Fraggles in the 2022 Fraggles Rock reboot, "Back to the Rock." Congratulations, Henchy.



C. 2002

IZZY



STORY

Izzy is Telly Monster's cousin. In Izzy's one and only episode, Telly Monster frets that Izzy will not like his triangles, but when Izzy visits he proceeds to like them so much that he **steals** them all for himself. He is only persuaded to give them back after he is forced to **put himself in** Telly's shoes.

Telly's triangles are kind of his whole thing, so Izzy stealing them for himself is totally a huge deal for Telly.

CHARACTERISTICS

Izzy is a greedy bully who likes triangles. He is a furry blue muppet with an orange nose, purple eyelids, and a backwards yellow **baseball cap**. He has luscious eyelashes and an affinity for triangles, which is perhaps genetic. It is a good thing that he learns **sharing** is **caring** when he does, because it's an important lesson that every child needs to learn— even muppet children.

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

Joey Mazzarino

FUN FACT:

Izzy appears in a grand total of one episode of Sesame Street titled *Telly's Cousin Izzy Visits*.



C. 1975

JANICE



STORY

Janice is the groovy lead guitarist for *The Muppet Show*'s in-house band "The Electric Mayhem." She has listed Tina Turner and Joan Jett among her musical influences, and Weezer as one of her favorite current bands.

She is a true flower child, modeled in part after Mick Jagger and Janice Joplin. Her fellow bandmates are Zoot, Floyd, Lips, Animal, and Dr. Teeth.

CHARACTERISTICS

Janice is a hippie-looking muppet with long blonde hair, big pink lips, and perpetually closed eyes. She dresses in eclectic 60's psychedelic garb and rocks a chilled out valley girl accent.

In addition to guitar, she plays tambourine, trumpet, and trombone.

Groovy, baby!

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Bonnie Erickson (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Richard Hunt (1977-1991)
David Rudman (2008-)

FUN FACT:

Janice is allergic to all forms of lying.
It causes her to sneeze.



C. 1955

KERMIT

THE

FROG



STORY

Perhaps the most famous muppet of all time, Kermit the Frog is the star host of *The Muppet Show* and the main character in most muppet movie productions. He has a romantic history with Miss Piggy, though he insists it's a professional relationship (one where he thinks they're professionals and she wants to be in a relationship). From humble swamp beginnings, Kermit rose to fame through *The Muppet show* and brought all of his muppet friends along with him.

KERMIT THE FROG

c. 1955

CHARACTERISTICS

Kermit the Frog is a green frog with an eleven-pointed collar and a distinct, Kermity voice. He plays the straight man in many muppet productions, though he is easily frustrated by the whirlwind antics of the muppets in his employ. Though he is their boss, it becomes clear throughout the series that the other muppets are his friends as well and all of the muppets come together to form one big muppet family.

DESIGNER:

Jim Henson

PERFORMER:

Jim Henson (1955-1990)

Steve Whitmire (1990-2016)

Matt Vogel (2017-)

FUN FACT:

The original Kermit the Frog prototype was made out of one of Henson's mother's old coats and had ping pong balls for eyes.



C. 1978

LEW

ZEALAND



STORY

Most of Lew Zealand's humor is fish-based, as his signature act consists of him throwing his boomerang fish away, after which they come right back to him. In his debut episode, he saves Kermit from being duped into marrying Miss Piggy with a throw of his boomerang fish.

According to Lew's original voice actor, Jerry Nelson, the idea behind Lew was just "the idea of this guy who had a boomerang fish act." So, that's basically Lew Zealand's whole entire deal.

CHARACTERISTICS

Lew Zealand is a humanoid muppet with an impressive mustache, spiky brown hair, and a red clown nose. He can typically be seen sporting a white ruff around his neck and a fish in his hand. He has a dopey voice and often refers to Kermit as "Mr. The Frog." His fish, which are sentient, really ought to get just as much credit as he does for his act.

LEW ZEALAND

c. 1978

DESIGNER:

Dave Goelz (*designer*)
Amy Van Gilder (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Jerry Nelson (1978-2003)
Matt Vogel (2008-)

FUN FACT:

On becoming a great boomerang fish thrower, Lew Zealand offers the following advice: "Well, you gotta have sole. And if you can't get sole, use halibut!"



C. 1976



MISS

PIGGY

STORY

Miss Piggy rose to fame after winning the Miss Bogen County beauty pageant, during which she also met the self-proclaimed love of her life, Kermit the Frog. **She is a pig who is not afraid to take what she wants**, whether it be stardom or Kermit's unwitting hand in marriage.

Miss Piggy has starred in every major muppet movie and her book, "Miss Piggy's Guide to Life," quickly became a national bestseller after its release in 1981.

MISS PIGGY

c. 1976

M

CHARACTERISTICS

Don't be fooled by her glamorous exterior— **Miss Piggy** can kick some serious roast rump. The **quint-essential diva** with looks and karate chops that could kill, Miss Piggy is a pig muppet with a full head of luscious blonde hair. She has piercing blue eyes, legs for days, and eyelashes that serve **full glam 24/7**. She is a dramatic actress and a great singer (**source: herself**).

DESIGNER:

Bonnie Erickson (*designer/ builder*)

PERFORMER:

Frank Oz (1976–2002)
Eric Jacobson (2001–)

FUN FACT:

Miss Piggy can do just about everything with a smile and a swish of her golden blonde locks, whether it be modelling, acting, singing, karate-chopping, tap dancing, or motorcycle-driving. **#Girlboss.**



C. 2001

NARF



STORY

Narf is a member of the silly quartet of monsters in the Sesame Street Monster Clubhouse. He has been repurposed multiple times as a background monster in various *Sesame Street* segments.

In the French version of *Sesame Street*, however, he is one of the main characters, going by the pseudonym "Yoyo." We see right through his primitive disguise. He will always be Narf in our eyes.

CHARACTERISTICS

Narf is a generic furry orange monster with googly eyes and a long, teal nose. He speaks in broken English and is staunchly and vocally anti-bullying.

In the French version of Sesame Street he is very emotional and anxious, which stands in stark contrast to his red-blooded American iteration that is visibly self-assured.

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

Joey Mazzarino

FUN FACT:

Narf is a muppet of many names and identities. He's sort of like James Bond in that way, but not really.

NARF

c. 2001

N



C. 1969

OSCAR

THE

GROUCH



STORY

Oscar's life goal is to be as miserable as possible and drag everyone down with him in the process, because **being miserable makes him happy** and **being happy makes him miserable**. His trademark song is "I Love Trash," with lyrics that wax poetic about his love for waste, refuse, and garbage. He was briefly engaged to his long-term girlfriend, Grungetta, but they decided to call off the wedding for fear their union would make them too happy.

OSCAR THE GROUCH

c. 1969

CHARACTERISTICS

Oscar the Grouch is a furry green grouch with an angry eye-brow who lives in a trash can on Sesame Street. **He loves trash, being grouchy, and his pet worm, Slimey.** He's somewhat of a hermit, never leaving his trash can, but doesn't like being completely alone because there's no one to listen to his complaining. He is perpetually 43 years young.

DESIGNER:

Jim Henson (*designer*)
Don Sahlin (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Caroll Spinney (1969-2018)
Eric Jacobson (2015-)

FUN FACT:

Underneath his green exterior, Oscar the Grouch is **actually orange!** It's just impossible to tell underneath all the slime and the mold. That's how he likes it.



C. 1996

PEPE

THE

KING

PRAWN



STORY

Pepe worked as a chef in Madrid before moving to Hollywood to follow his dreams in show biz after one too many “close calls” in the kitchen. He first appeared on *Muppets Tonight* in 1996 as a companion to Seymour the Elephant before establishing himself as a solo act in *Muppets from Space* (1999).

On occasion he enjoys wearing a tutu and dancing ballet, showing that under the macho exterior he is in touch with his softer, more feminine side.

PEPE THE KING PRAWN

c. 1996

CHARACTERISTICS

Pepe the King Prawn (full name Pepito Rodrigo Serrano Gonzales) is **NOT** a shrimp. He is a **king prawn** and a handsome ladies’ man with a sultry Spanish accent. Though short in stature, he is commanding in personality. He is orange and spindly with four arms and a shock of red hair that jets out of his petite head at all angles.

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Eric Engelhardt (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Bill Barretta (*1996-present*)

FUN FACT:

Pepe the King Prawn is a former spokesprawn for Long John Silver’s, a seafood fast food chain with locations across the transcontinental US.



C. 1976

THE QUEEN



STORY

The Queen appeared on *The Muppet Show* on two separate occasions, once in a sketch with Twiggy and again in a sketch with Zero Mostel. With Twiggy, she performed a dramatization of the poem "**The King's Breakfast**," and with Mostel she performed the song "**What Do the Simple Folk Do?**" She has not been seen or heard from since. Perhaps she has been usurped? Deposed? Can Miss Piggy comment on this?

CHARACTERISTICS

Void of eyes and any real dimension to her majesty's head, **the Queen** is **30% beak**, **10% mouth**, and **60% frills, curls, and sweeping fabrics**. She is a pink muppet with a long, pointed nose and fully articulated hands. She has been voiced by several different voice actors in her various appearances on *The Muppet Show*.

THE QUEEN

c. 1976

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

Various

FUN FACT:

The Queen's design is based on that of the Featherstone puppet. Could the two be related? Perhaps...



C. 1983

RED



STORY

Red is one of the five main Fraggles on *Fraggle Rock*. She is deeply insecure and hates to admit when she is in the wrong. She often competes with her friends, sometimes against their will; whether it be at running, diving, swimming, or rock hockey. She is best friends and roommates with Mokey Fraggles.

Red's lust for life and her physical prowess make her an excellent role model for young girls who aren't afraid to conquer.

CHARACTERISTICS

Red Fraggles is a yellow Fraggles with two red-orange pigtailed tufts atop her head. Her baloobius is orange-red as well. She is always seen wearing a red turtleneck sweater. She is an energetic, athletic, and headstrong young lady with a competitive drive. She loves her friends and she is passionate about playing, as all Fraggles are.

RED FRAGGLE

c. 1983

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Rollie Krewson (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Karen Prell

FUN FACT:

Red and Mokey share many meaningful moments over the course of the show "Fraggle Rock."



C. 1971

SLIMEY



STORY

Slimey is Oscar the Grouch's pet worm. Unlike Oscar, Slimey has achieved incredible feats of worm achievement by becoming the first worm to visit the moon. Slimey was found by Oscar in the mud, and look how far he has come from there! Move over, Neil Armstrong!

Slimey is proficient in the tuba and the clarinet, and he lives in a tiny trash can identical to Oscar's. How adorable is that!

CHARACTERISTICS

Slimey is an orange worm with yellow stripes, an ever-smiling mouth, and beady black eyes. Originally a silent character that communicated only in squeaks, chirps, and gestures, Slimey eventually evolved a high pitched voice to match his diminutive stature. A 1971 study concluded that children respond especially well to Slimey.

SLIMEY

c. 1971

DESIGNER:

unknown

PERFORMER:

Martin P. Robinson (*puppetry*
1981-)

Dick Maitland (*voice*)

FUN FACT:

Slimey has a little sister named Sloppy, who he dutifully bottle feeds by holding the bottle in his entire mouth.



C. 1983

TRASH

HEAP



STORY

Marjory the Trash Heap is an omnipotent hub of wisdom that doles out advice to wayward Fraggles. Her acolytes, Philo and Grunge, are two rats that serve as her hype men.

She is an oracle, and she lives in the far corner of the Gorgs' garden, making the journey to seek her wisdom a treacherous one. Though her advice is often misinterpreted, she tries her best to send those seeking her assistance in the right direction.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Trash Heap is a sentient and sassy pile of compost who lives outside of Fraggles rock. She consists of multitudes: banana peels, leaves, orange peels, and a saucy pair of pink cat-eye spectacles. She speaks in a non-specific Eastern European accent. She is awe-inspiring in her grandiosity and she knows many magic spells, which she uses for benevolent purposes.

TRASH HEAP

c. 1983

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Goothick, McNamara (*builders*)

PERFORMER:

Jerry Nelson

FUN FACT:

You may address Marjory the Trash Heap as "Madame Trash Heap," "Your Trashiness," "Madame Heap," or, in informal contexts, simply "Trash Heap."



C. 1983



UNCLE

TRAVELLING

MATT

STORY

Travelling Matt is Gobo Fraggles' uncle, and he sends Gobo frequent postcards detailing his tales from "Outer Space" (the human world).

He refers to humans as "Silly Creatures" and marvels at their strange customs and inventions, such as cars, which he refers to as "Shiny Creatures" as he tries to learn their language to communicate with them (*honk honk honk*).

UNCLE TRAVELLING MATT

c. 1983

U

CHARACTERISTICS

Uncle Travelling Matt is a humanoid Fraggles with wild white hair, a mustache and mutton chops. He is dressed as an old timey explorer and often carries his knapsack around with him, ensuring he is prepared for anything he may encounter in Outer Space. He is brave, resourceful, and adventurous, though admittedly he is a bit of a clutz.

DESIGNER:

Michael Frith (*designer*)
Tim Clarke (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Dave Goelz

FUN FACT:

Uncle Travelling Matt thinks mannequins are meditating creatures who have found an elevated sense of inner peace through their stillness.



C. 2012



VANNA

BANANA

STORY

Undoubtedly the handiwork of former first lady Michelle Obama, Vanna Banana exists for one reason alone: to teach children the importance of a healthy breakfast.

Vanna's insistence that Cookie Monster should eat bananas despite knowing that she herself is a banana will haunt the masses for years to come.

CHARACTERISTICS

Vanna Banana is a banana with lipstick, eyeshadow, and eyelashes to make it obvious that she is a girl banana. She is a yellow banana, not too ripe, but not too unripe either. Vanna's existence seems to have been wiped from the face of history, but her impact cannot be wiped from the collective consciousness of children across America.

VANNA BANANA

c. 2012

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

Stephanie D'Arbuzzo

FUN FACT:

Vanna Banana is named for the famous Wheel of Fortune hostess, Vanna White.



C. 1983

WEMBLEY



STORY

Wembley Fraggles is one of the five main Fraggles on *Fraggle Rock*. He is roommates and best friends with Gobo Fraggles. He is a talented bongo player and he works as a siren for the Fraggles Rock Volunteer Fire Department.

Wembley often has trouble standing up for himself and tends to fall into the common pitfalls of a people-pleaser, or in his case a Fraggles-pleaser.

WEMBLEY FRAGGLE

c. 1983

CHARACTERISTICS

Wembley is an easily excitable chartreuse Fraggles with yellow hair and a yellow tuft on his tail. He typically wears a very spiffy looking banana tree print shirt. Wembley is allergic to a host of things, including but not limited to laundry lint, cave cotton, rock dust, and bonkleberries. He has trouble making up his mind about anything, but with the help of his friends he usually overcomes his indecision.

DESIGNER:

Michael K. Frith (*designer*)
Rollie Krewson (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Steve Whitmire

FUN FACT:

In the language of the ancient Fraggles, "Wembley" means "don't scratch your nose in public."



C. 1972



XAVIER

STORY

Xavier's purpose on *Sesame Street* is solely to exist and have a name that starts with the letter X. As each character announces their name alphabetically, Xavier begins to encounter an existential crisis. What does he live for? Does he have likes, dislikes? A personality? One can only assume that he comes to the conclusion that none of that matters. He doesn't exist to think for himself. "Xavier," he says, when they get to the letter X. Just like that, his time on *Sesame Street* is done.

XAVIER

c. 1972

CHARACTERISTICS

Xavier is a hot pink humanoid muppet with pink hair and no back-story. He has two eyes, no nose, and a mouth that forms only one word: his own name. He holds a sign with the letter X on it.

He seems happy, though the audience has no metric to gauge what happy might look like for Xavier. Perhaps it is all a facade.

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

Jerry Nelson

FUN FACT:

The card Xavier holds with the letter X on it is black, and the X is teal blue.



C. 1984

YOLANDA

RAT



STORY

Between fielding unwanted passes made at her by Rizzo and working odd jobs at Muppet Studios, **Yolanda Rat** has it rough. Despite the odds, her indomitable spirit and stunning good looks have carried her far. She ended up befriending Rizzo, and they have grown quite close. She's grown more of a personality over the years as the Muppets' writer's room realized they were low on fleshed out female characters.

CHARACTERISTICS

Yolanda Rat is a rat muppet modeled after Rizzo the Rat. Unlike Rizzo, she has eyelashes, a dress, and blonde hair with a bow in it so that everyone can tell she is a girl rat.

She is based off of Rizzo in her design, but that doesn't mean she needs to be constantly compared to him. **She is her own woman!**

YOLANDA RAT

c. 1984

DESIGNER:

Unknown

PERFORMER:

Various

Julianne Buescher (1994-)

FUN FACT:

Yolanda is currently studying very hard to get her dream job as an ultrasound technician. She has a B average!



C. 1993



ZOE

STORY

Zoe was originally created to satisfy the need for a girl muppet in the main cast of *Sesame Street*. She has a pet rock named Rocco who often gets into verbal altercations with Elmo, though Rocco himself cannot talk because he is a rock.

Zoe eventually took on more of a background role as that evil little pink fairy freak “Abby Cadabby” gained popularity.

ZOE

c. 1993

CHARACTERISTICS

Zoe is a bright orange 3-year-old muppet with some pink and sparkly hairs on her head. She is a girly girl who wears jewelry, barrettes, and tutus. Her favorite letter is **Z**. She is obsessed with ballet and loves dancing. She can be seen driving around Sesame Street in her Zoe-mobile, though it has not been made clear whether she is in possession of a legal driver's license in the state of New York.

DESIGNER:

Ed Christie (*designer*)
Rollie Krewson (*builder*)

PERFORMER:

Fran Brill (1993–2015)
Jennifer Barnhart (2016–)

FUN FACT:

Zoe is very proud of the fact that she can spell her own name, although it only has three letters and that shouldn't be very hard to remember.



ABOUT JIM HENSON

Jim Henson (1936-1990) was an American puppeteer and filmmaker who first **created the Muppets** in the mid-1950s. Henson and his team **changed the face of children's entertainment** and puppetry as a medium with their unique brand of humor, puppet design, and **sophisticated themes**.

Henson took puppets out of their classic box-stage and put them into environments where they could learn, grow, and **inspire audiences** both young and old.

By the time of Henson's death in 1990, the Muppets had become a **global phenomenon** that would touch the **hearts** and **minds** of viewers for generations to come.

Each Muppet has their own distinct personality, purpose, and **unique story to tell**.

Sonia Pivovarov

Typography II

Professor Guenet Abraham

Art 337

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